

May 11, 2020

My name is Cassidy Clark, I am in my fourth year here at San Jose State. I have been fortunate enough to experience college as a student-athlete and I was heading into my final season of college softball and my final semester before graduation. Our softball team started off on a great note, winning 17 games in a row and being favored to win our conference, the Mountain West. It was extremely exciting for me as a senior to be a part of something so special. I knew that my final days of playing softball would be over soon, but I never could have guessed that it would come so sudden. On March 12th, I had my final practice of the season. We were preparing for our first conference game against the University of New Mexico coming up just the next day. After we found out that the season had been postponed indefinitely, I was devastated. I was so wrapped up in the uncertainty of everything and in the moment I felt as if I had lost everything. Along with softball being cancelled, classes had been transferred to online and I suddenly found myself completely out of my routine.

After a few days of working through the hardships, I forced myself to take a step back and put things in perspective. As a public health major I understood that this was a necessary step that had to be taken in order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. I understood that the cancellation of spring sports was for the greater good of the world. This helped me cope with the fact that I would never play softball again due to my four years of eligibility being up. To my surprise, the NCAA decided to grant all spring sport athletes impacted by the coronavirus another year of eligibility. I decided to take that year without a doubt, I quickly extended my graduation date to next Spring and I am now looking forward to the upcoming year. I feel blessed that I have the opportunity to extend my education along with my softball career for one more year. I decided to pursue a minor in Child and Adolescent Development, an area that I have grown very interested over the years through elective courses I have taken. I believe that my experience with coronavirus will make me stronger, it has already given me the opportunity to become more well-rounded as a student and have one final year of softball before I graduate college.